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Spring 2019

# HSS 403-108: Introduction to Film

Rodney Reyes

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	<b><u>Syllabus HSS 403 - LIT SEM: INTRODUCTION TO FILM</u></b>
	<b><u>Instructor: Rodney Reyes</u></b>
<b>NJIT Campus, Kupfrian Hall 206</b>	E-mail: (best way to contact) reyes@njit.edu      Phone: 973-596-3457
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<b>Office Hours:</b>	Kupfrian Hall 133, Thursdays from 4-5pm, Fridays (by appointment)
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	All Lower Division and 300 level Humanities GUR requirements. Can take the 300 level HUM/LIT/HIST/PHIL during the same semester.
<b>Required readings:</b>	MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, Joseph Gibaldi, Modern Language Association, 6th ed., 2003 (Either this manual or the APA manual is required for the course.)
	There will be no books assigned. However, you will be required to watch the films assigned. All the films assigned are available for rental off of iTunes, Amazon, Youtube or Netflix.
<b>Technical Requirements:</b>	A VIMEO account is required for this course. It is similar to YouTube. You will create a free account on <a href="http://vimeo.com">http://vimeo.com</a> which will enable you to upload your Visual Exercises for viewing.
	A Smartphone or Digital Camera that records HD VIDEO is required. Visual Exercise assignments require the ability to record video. Minimum editing knowledge is preferred.
<b>Course Objective:</b>	This is a class on the art of film and its roles in culture and exploring its relationship to our world. We will explore film on a craft level and its disciplines as an art form through analysis and critique. This is a class for those who want to know more about film through a variety of films from different genres throughout the decades. Students will also conduct research on a topic; as appropriate and formulate a critical argument related to film and its influence.
<b>Course Goals:</b>	Learn basic film vocabulary such as montage, mis-en-scene, various camera shots, cinematic conventions. Grasp on filmmaking through visual exercises to understand the basic theory regarding the camera's role in shaping the viewer's perception. Understanding on the purpose and function of film.
<b>Method of Instruction:</b>	Watch films and videos. Lecture and class discussion. Small group work. Student presentation. Library work. Quizzes and final presentations.
<b>Attendance is mandatory</b>	Class attendance is mandatory. You are allowed one (1) unexcused absence. After that, each absence lowers the daily grade one letter grade. Three (3) absences—excused or otherwise—will result in failure for the course. An excused absence simply means that the student's missed quiz will not count against them, it's still an absence.
<b>Policies:</b>	No Cell phone use, including texting, during class. No Internet surfing in class. No late assignments will be accepted.
<b>WEEK ONE</b>	JAN 22: INTRODUCTION OF CLASS AND SYLLABUS DISCUSSION
<b>WEEK TWO</b>	JAN 29: CITIZEN KANE DISCUSSION (Quiz);
<b>WEEK THREE</b>	FEB 5: SHANE/THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY DISCUSSION (Quiz);
<b>WEEK FOUR</b>	FEB 12: VISUAL EXERCISES #1 PRESENTATION;

<b>WEEK FIVE</b>	FEB 19: CASABLANCA DISCUSSION (Quiz);
<b>WEEK SIX</b>	FEB 26: BLADE RUNNER DISCUSSION (Quiz);
<b>WEEK SEVEN</b>	MAR 5: THE RED BALLOON DISCUSSION (Quiz);
<b>WEEK EIGHT</b>	MAR 12: VISUAL EXERCISE #2 PRESENTATION/ *Adaptation Paper DUE
<b>WEEK NINE</b>	MAR 19: SPRING BREAK
<b>WEEK TEN</b>	MAR 26: GOODFELLAS DISCUSSION (Quiz);
<b>WEEK ELEVEN</b>	APR 2: PULP FICTION DISCUSSION (Quiz); * VISUAL EXERCISE #3 DUE
<b>WEEK TWELVE</b>	APR 9: THE ROYAL TENEMBAUMS DISCUSSION (Quiz); *Research Paper Draft DUE
<b>WEEK THIRTEEN</b>	APR 16: FISTS OF LOVE - Independent Feature Film (Quiz);
<b>WEEK FOURTEEN</b>	APR 23: HER DISCUSSION (Quiz);
<b>WEEK FIFTEEN</b>	APR 30: BLUE JAY/SEARCHING DISCUSSION (Quiz);
<b>WEEK SIXTEEN</b>	MAY 7: FINAL GROUP PRESENTATIONS: SHORT FILM; *Final Research Paper Due
<b>QUIZ</b>	There will be quizzes on the day of film discussions.
<b>ASSIGNMENTS:</b>	
	<b>CREATE VIMEO ACCOUNT; DUE JAN 29</b>
	<b>VISUAL EXERCISE 1: Show an Ordinary Day in 60 Seconds; DUE FEB 12</b>
	<b>VISUAL EXERCISE 2: 5X5; DUE MAR 12</b>
	<b>ADAPTATION PAPER; DUE MAR 12</b>
	<b>VISUAL EXERCISE 3: Redux; DUE APR 2</b>
	<b>FIRST DRAFT RESEARCH PAPER; DUE APR 9</b>
	<b>FINAL SHORT FILM PROJECT &amp; PRESENTATIONS; DUE MAY 7</b>
	<b>FINAL RESEARCH PAPER; DUE MAY 7</b>
<b>GRADING</b>	<b>5% Attendance/Class Participation, 5% Adaptation Paper, 20% Visual Exercises 1-3, 20% Quizzes, 25% Research Paper, 25% Final Short Film Presentation</b>
<b>PLAY PERFORMANCES</b>	Toxic Avenger the Musical; March 6-9 at 7pm; March 10 at 2:30pm - Jim Wisw Theatre, Kupfrian Hall; \$15